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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 1996, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1996

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Lord of new beginnings, we return to the work of the Senate after a month of party conventions and political campaigns. As we convene, it is difficult not to consider every issue in terms of the forthcoming elections. Our differences are sharply focused; the spirit of competition runs high; we are tempted to become users of our process here to posture our positions. Sometimes our eyes are on the polls and not on You, and our passion for winning vies with our passion for patriotism.

In this quiet moment, before we begin this day, and our fall season, we deliberately reorder our priorities. We renew our basic commitment to seek first Your will, what is best for America, and what will glorify You. May these priorities be the basis of our unity. Keep us close to You and open to each other. We commit to Your care our friends and brother Americans, Bill Clinton and AL GORE, Bob Dole and Jack Kemp, as they debate the issues and prepare for the November Presidential elections. Watch over their families and surround them with Your protection. We ask for Your guidance in dealing with the crisis of aggression by Saddam Hussein in the Kurdish zone of northern Iraq. Grant us wisdom each step of the way in this strategic situation. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

WELCOME BACK

Mr. LOTT. Welcome back, Mr. President. I hope you had a restful August period and time for renewal, as well as perhaps a little campaigning. I want to thank the Chaplain for opening the session in the way he has this morning, and extend a welcome back to my colleague, the Democratic leader, this morning, and hope he had time for rest and renewal, too, in addition to the conventions we both had to attend. I look forward to working with him during the next month or so.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. This morning, the Senate is resuming its business following the August adjournment. There will be a period for morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with the first 90 minutes under the control of Senator DASCHLE or his designee and the second 90 minutes under the control of Senator COVERDELL or his designee. Immediately following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3666, the VA-HUD appropriations bill.

As a reminder, there will be no roll-call votes during today's session. I hope amendments, though, will be offered and debated on the bill today, with those votes to occur tomorrow morning, hopefully, beginning at 9 or 9:30. I hope we complete action on the VA-HUD appropriations bill early this week so we may consider other available appropriations, as well as conference reports for such bills as the D.C. appropriations conference, the military construction appropriations conference, the legislative appropriations conference, as well as the Defense authorization conference report.

Also, this week we have a consent agreement with respect to the consideration of H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act. All Senators should be prepared for busy sessions of the Senate this week and the weeks to follow as we prepare to complete our business prior to the adjournment of this Congress.

Also, I should note that under the unanimous-consent agreement with relation to H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act, there were four amendments on each side that were provided for, and those amendments will need to be filed by 5 o'clock this afternoon or exchanged, so we can get a chance to look at the amendments that might be offered on Thursday of this week.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 3953

Mr. LOTT. I understand, Mr. President, that there is a bill due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3953) to combat terrorism.

Mr. LOTT. I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

PENDING ISSUES

Mr. LOTT. I might also note, before I yield the floor to the distinguished

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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